

CASHIER OF PICKPOCKETS

STEVENS, WHO PUT UP \$10,000 IN HARTFORD, HAS MONEY.

One of the leaders of the New York gang which has a fund to help out members when they are caught—has a criminal record—Money Sewed In.

POUGHKEEPSIE, Nov. 30.—Joseph Stevens, who obtained release in Hartford by putting up \$10,000 bail on charges of theft and highway robbery, is well known to the police here. He is a leader of what is known in criminal parlance as a "mob" and has a prison record himself. Stevens' real name is said to be John Murray. He gives his occupation as a clerk and says that he lives in Toledo. He is generally called Red Murray, but travels under the aliases of Patrick Mullen, George Smith and John or Joseph Stevens.

Murray's crowd of pickpockets is known to be the boldest and most successful in the country. Murray's ability to provide \$10,000 cash bail is not due so much to his associations with New York politicians as it is to the fact that he is a master of a game of crooks. These criminals pay in a percentage of their gains to be bailed and used for members of the "mob" in time of trouble.

The fact that Murray was able to put up \$10,000 in Hartford indicates that the "mob" has had an unusually successful season and that Murray has good reasons for keeping out of the public ken at present.

When Murray was arrested in Poughkeepsie in August, 1907, he was accused of "lifting" \$300 from a Boston physician who was in attendance at the Grand Central Station. Chief of Police McClellan arrested him in the New York Central station, where he was waiting for a train, as a suspicious character. Murray then said that he was a clerk from Albany, but when the chief pretended to call Albany headquarters by long distance telephone Murray weakened and confessed his identity.

Three members of Murray's gang were with him and were arrested by Chief McClellan and Detective McGowan. They were James Cunningham, alias Frank Cunningham, alias Frank Howard; Michael Hicks, alias Michael Carroll, known as the Umbrella Kid; also James Hendricks, alias John Hendricks, and Ryan. They all have prison records, and long ones.

When Murray was searched after his arrest, here he had \$100 in his pockets. After he was placed in a cell with the other three members of his gang Chief McClellan "baked them up" from an adjoining cell and saw that the chief had not got all his money. He searched Murray again and found \$230 tied up in his stocking. When Murray returned to his cell, he said that the chief was still shy on his count. Murray was called out and made to strip and the chief found a \$500 note sewed up in his stocking.

Murray was furious, and a quartet of crooks spent hours trying to confirm their suspicions that their conversation had been overheard. The chief was being placed overboard their denunciations and chucked. Murray lighted a newspaper and thrust it through the gratings of his cell door into a dark cell adjoining the one where the chief was. The latter darted behind a chimney and stood hidden until the glow died out. So Murray failed to confirm his suspicions that he was an eavesdropper.

Murray and his companions got out of their trouble here by the failure of the complainant to appear. Murray has been in the State Prison for grand larceny. He was sentenced in 1901. He was once arrested in Washington, D. C., for theft but escaped conviction. Murray, although a cunning rascal of a criminal, is not above picking pockets himself. He works when business is poor. When it is good he stands as a lookout. He is a cunning rascal, dodges off with the roll which is handed to him when the victim is robbed. A percentage of the money is banked by Murray as a common fund for use in time of trouble.

Murray is only 27 years old, but he has stood high in the New York Association of Pickpockets for several years.

BUREAU TO PREVENT FIRES

Suggested to Charter Committee After Attack on Catekill Freshet of Expense.

The Water Supply board received some hard knocks yesterday from Assemblyman Lindon Bates, Jr., of the Twenty-ninth district before the Legislative charter committee. Mr. Bates said the committee to revise the charter was doing a bad job of it. He said that the committee was doing a bad job of it. He said that the committee was doing a bad job of it.

Mr. Bates asserted that as things are now managed the Water Supply board can spend what money it likes without any adequate checking of its expenditures. He said that up to April 1 last it had cost \$800,000 to condemn by commission land valued at \$2,000,000, and he understood that four years more of such work was ahead. He said that he had been let for bringing the Catekill water across the Hudson, although the engineers are still in doubt as to how the job of crossing the river is to be accomplished. There was an enormous leakage, he said, which ought to be stopped. In his opinion the Water Supply board ought to be abolished and an independent board with adequate powers should be created.

"The cost of the Aqueduct Commission," he said, "is less than the automobile hire of the Water Supply board. We should stop this money graft of condemnations in the Catekills."

H. W. De Berard speaking in behalf of the Merchants Association favored the abolition of the Aqueduct Commission, saying that its work was done.

John F. Cowan, chairman of the Aqueduct Commission, said that the commission is doing better work than any other contractor and that its work is not yet done.

W. W. Niles, the member of the Ives commission, said that the commission is doing better work than any other contractor and that its work is not yet done.

Mr. De Berard and E. W. Bloomingdale, who represented the Retail Dry Goods Merchants Association, advocated a bureau for the prevention of fires by thorough inspection. Mr. Bloomingdale said that 25 per cent. of the yearly premiums paid to fire insurance companies in New York are paid by the twenty-five merchants represented in the Retail Association. They have safeguarded their own premises so thoroughly that their loss by fire in the last ten years has been almost nothing, and it is impossible for them to guard against fires which might start in other buildings and so endanger their property.

ARREST SAUSAGE MAKER.

He is Alleged Not to Have Complied With Federal Meat Inspection Law.

BOSTON, Nov. 30.—Luigi Ballarini of 24 King street, New York, doing business at 150 West street, that city as a sausage manufacturer, was arrested this afternoon by Deputy United States Marshal Waters here as a fugitive from justice. He is alleged by the Government that he did not comply with the meat inspection law. Large quantities of sausage were shipped with marks indicating that they were salmon and cheese. The New York police have been looking for him since November 24, 1908.

TO MAKE DIRECTORS DIRECT.

Plan of Reform in National Banks Devised by Comptroller Murray.

WASHINGTON, Nov. 30.—Lawrence O. Murray, Comptroller of the Currency, has taken steps to compel directors of national banks "to direct." He was convinced by the conditions disclosed in the failure of the First National Bank at Mineral Point, Wis., an officer of which took the bank's funds on notes to which names of local citizens were forged, causing a shortage of four times the capital stock. The directors had no knowledge of what was going on. They had not met for six months preceding the failure.

The Comptroller's statement said: "In order to round out a general plan of the Comptroller of the Currency in regard to the control by the directors of the banks, the latter are being asked to adopt 2,500 national banks which now hold board meetings at irregular intervals and at infrequent intervals to amend and forward to this office a copy of their by-laws as amended to provide for at least monthly meetings of the board of directors, for the appointment of examining and discount committees, for the approval by the board of directors of all loans and discounts at these monthly meetings, and for the recording of such approval in permanent form."

At present daily meetings of the board of directors are held by a number of the national banks, 1,365 hold weekly meetings, about 300 hold semi-monthly meetings, and 2,851 hold monthly meetings. A total of over 4,500 which hold board meetings at least monthly at which the loans and discounts are approved.

Hereafter, as soon as an application for a national bank is approved, the organizers of it will be told that they must submit with the organization papers a copy of their by-laws, which must provide for a national bank, which must provide for a national bank, which must provide for a national bank.

DOCTORED COURT RECORDS.

Evidence of Crooked Work as to Pickpockets' Bail Bonds.

When James F. Connelly, a well to do contractor and Democratic politician of Jersey City, is placed on trial in the Hudson County Court of Quarter Sessions on December 8 on an indictment for perjury Prosecutor of the Pleas Pierre P. Garven will seek to prove that somebody tampered with the records of the court, presumably for the purpose of destroying a part of the evidence on which the perjury charge was based. The prosecutor and his assistants are making a rigid inquiry into all the suspicious circumstances of the case, and all hands refused last night to make any disclosures.

It is claimed that Connelly was accepted as a bondsman on June 24, 1909, for Joseph Rosenblyth and Charles Hartliff, charged with the murder of their father, thereby giving many people the impression that they were afraid they would be convicted. The real reason for the security in the case of Patrick Connelly, an uncle of James F. Connelly, the indictment sets forth that he was a well to do contractor and Democratic politician of Jersey City, is placed on trial in the Hudson County Court of Quarter Sessions on December 8 on an indictment for perjury Prosecutor of the Pleas Pierre P. Garven will seek to prove that somebody tampered with the records of the court, presumably for the purpose of destroying a part of the evidence on which the perjury charge was based.

It is known that the county judges and the prosecutor's office are greatly worked up over the fact that the court records have been changed with a criminal object, and sensational developments are expected at the trial.

David Carvalho, handwriting expert, in a written statement is prepared to swear as a witness for the defense that the signature on the bail bonds is not that of the defendant.

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A disagreement between the firm of Stollwerk Bros., the chocolate manufacturers of Cologne, Germany, and Albert N. Stollwerk, who until October, 1908, represented the Cologne firm in the United States, has resulted in a suit to recover \$25,000 from Stollwerk Bros. and Ludwig Stollwerk, head of the firm, to the amount of \$25,000 given to Albert N. Stollwerk to buy out his interest in the company. It is alleged that the consideration stipulated for the purchase of the company was \$25,000, but that the defendant failed to pay the balance of the purchase price.

THE SQUABBLE IN CHOCOLATE.

Something About a Verbal Agreement in Restraint of Trade.

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MOTHER AND SON FOUND DEAD.

He Had Gone to Visit Her and They Were Killed by Gas.

Mrs. Laura Weeks and her son Gustave were found dead last night in a room in a boarding house on Sheepshead Bay road and Cortland street, Sheepshead Bay. The gas in the room was escaping. She was a fat, stout woman and her son was 35.

According to the police, Gustave, who was married and had three children, left his family at seven o'clock and lived at College Point. Yesterday afternoon he went to see his mother. The neighbors say that he was drunk when he came home. Alice Sherman, who keeps the boarding house, heard loud talking in the room shortly after Gustave got there, but she didn't pay much attention to it. Later as she was passing the door of the room she smelled gas. On opening the door she found the two bodies on the floor.

There were no letters or notes left to throw any light on the deaths.

SELIGMAN'S MOTORCYCLE.

Young Broker's Power Bike Hits a Girl Who Isn't Hurt.

Joe Seligman of 32 West Fifty-second street, himself a broker, and related to the bankers, a young man whose motorcycle has brought him into notice before, was arrested last night after running down a girl at Fifty-second street and Seventh avenue.

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